



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Management of BKK Landfill Transfers to Responsible Parties

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced that the U.S. District Court, Central District of California approved a Consent Decree requiring a group of potentially responsible parties to assume management and operation of the closed BKK hazardous waste landfill in West Covina. The group of responsible parties includes 27 different entities – mostly private companies from numerous types of industries and one municipal agency- all of whom had previous relationships with the landfill.

In November 2004, after the BKK Corporation, owner and operator of the facility, announced it could no longer care for closed Class I (hazardous) landfill, DTSC hired an emergency response contractor and started overseeing essential activities and various repairs.

“This transfer will enable these potentially responsible parties to efficiently manage and maintain this former landfill. We are confident DTSC’s work, stabilizing systems and overseeing necessary repairs will be continued by this group of potentially responsible parties,” said DTSC Director Maureen Gorsen. “The Consent Decree is a first step toward the continued maintenance of the facility well into the future,” Gorsen added.

Under the Consent Decree, management responsibilities for the Class I landfill, the leachate treatment plant, and some other systems will transfer from DTSC’s contractor to a contractor that works for the responsible parties. The potentially responsible parties will also complete several specific repair projects. DTSC will continue to oversee activities at the landfill.

The Consent Decree also requires these parties to pay some of DTSC’s past and future costs associated with responding to conditions at the landfill and overseeing activities of the responsible parties. DTSC believes each of these parties sent hazardous waste to the BKK hazardous waste landfill while it was operating or they have owned or operated the landfill. The Decree requires the potentially responsible parties to reimburse DTSC approximately \$ 4.75 million to pay for work conducted before the responsible parties assumed maintenance of the site. The group will also pay more than \$1 million for DTSC costs to oversee the group’s future activities for the next two years. The Consent Decree covers only the hazardous waste landfill and some of the shared systems.

The BKK Facility covers approximately 583 acres and consists of two landfills (hazardous and non hazardous waste). The closed hazardous waste landfill accepted waste from mid 1960’s to the late 1980’s. The non-hazardous waste (municipal) landfill accepted waste from 1987 to the mid 1990s and is in the process of closing. The two landfills share several systems and facilities, such as the storm drain system, the gas and leachate collection system, and the leachate treatment plant, which is physically located at the hazardous waste landfill.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control’s mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.